

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Original): A system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes, comprising:

- a first plate having:
  - a first adjustable grip adapted for gripping a first spinous process;
  - a second adjustable grip adapted for gripping a second spinous process; a first slot at a first position;
  - a second slot at a second position; and
  - a third slot at a third position;
- a second plate having:
  - a first adjustable grip adapted for gripping the first spinous process; and
  - a second adjustable grip adapted for gripping the second spinous process;
  - a first slot at a first position;
  - a second slot at a second position; and a third slot at a third position;
- a first pin positioned in the first slot of the first plate and the first slot of the second plate, thereby connecting the first plate with the second plate;
- a second pin positioned in the second slot of the first plate and the second slot of the second plate, thereby connecting the first plate with the second plate;
- a third pin positioned in the third slot of the first plate and the third slot of the second plate, thereby connecting the first plate with the second plate;
- a first spacer moveably connected with the first pin;
- a second spacer moveably connected with the second pin; and
- a third spacer moveably connected with the third pin.

21. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein each of the adjustable grips is adapted to be adjusted relative to the spinous process so as to be tightened relative to the spinous processes.

22. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 21, wherein each of the adjustable grips includes one of a bolt and a slotted screw to adjust the adjustable grip.

23. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein at least one of the first, second and third spacers can be expanded.

24. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein each of the first, second, and third spacers is substantially elliptical in cross-section.

25. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein each of the first, second, and third spacers is adapted to be positioned close to a spine and adjacent to portions of the spinous processes to spread the load placed upon the spacer by the adjacent spinous processes.

26. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20 wherein each of the first, second, and third spacers is movably attached to the system so that the spacer can be attached at two or more locations on the system.

27. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein each of the first, second, and third slots in the first plate and the second plate includes a plurality of cut-outs, lobes, or scallops such that pins can be positioned to prevent the pins from slipping within the slots.

28. (Original): The system for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein knurls are associated with each of the first, second, and third slots in the first plate and the second plate prevent the pins from slipping within the slot.

29. - 49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented): The system of for immobilizing adjacent spinous processes of claim 20, wherein: the first spacer is rotatably mounted on the first pin; the second spacer is rotatably mounted on the second pin; and the third spacer is rotatably mounted on the third pin.

51. (Canceled)